Please cancel Claims 72-75 and amend Claims 1-71 as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~suitable~~ for an image forming system ~~which comprises~~ adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of ~~which can~~ print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to ~~that can~~ store data of a plurality of jobs including ~~data of a~~ first ~~job~~ and ~~data of a~~ second job**s** ~~which is input after the data of the first job~~, and [[a]] the sheet processing device being capable of ~~which can execute a~~ sheet processing for ~~a~~ sheet**s** printed by the image forming device, the method comprising:

~~a scheduling control step suited to~~

setting a first or second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, ~~associated with a plurality of work flows including a~~ and at least one of the first and second work flow**s** being a work flow that includes a plurality of process steps performed by using ~~the~~ a plurality of devices ~~of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and~~

~~an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions;~~

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wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job

controlling at least one of the plurality of devices to complete the second work flow for the second job after completing the first work flow for the first job in a case that the first schedule is set; and

controlling at least one of the plurality of devices to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job in a case that the second schedule is set.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising: wherein the instruction step includes a step of inputting a third instruction, and the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the third instruction is input, setting a third schedule in accordance with another predetermined instruction input by using the input unit, the third schedule which being is scheduled to execute a work flow in consideration of cost upon processing a job by using at least one of the plurality of devices in the image forming system.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising: wherein the instruction step includes a step of inputting a fourth instruction, and the

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scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the fourth instruction is input, setting a fourth schedule in accordance with another predetermined instruction input by using the input unit, the fourth schedule which being is scheduled to execute a work flow in consideration of quality upon processing a job by using at least one of the plurality of devices in the image forming system.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein further comprising a device control step suited to control, when the first or second schedule is set, the number plurality of devices of the image forming system to complete utilized in the first or second work flow is controlled for the second job input after the first job, or after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and to control, when the second schedule is set, the plurality of devices of the image forming system timing of performing the process steps to complete in the first or second work flow is controlled for the second job input after the first job, or before completion of a predetermined function provided for device utilized in the first or second work flow is controlled for the first job.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 4 2, further comprising: wherein the device control step includes a step of controlling when the third schedule is set, at least one of the plurality of devices of the image forming system to execute a work flow in consideration of cost upon a processing a job in a case that the third schedule is set in the image forming system.

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6.　(Currently Amended)　The method according to Claim ~~4~~, 3 further comprising: ~~wherein the device control step includes a step of~~ controlling ~~, when the fourth schedule is set,~~ at least one of the plurality of devices ~~of the image forming system~~ to execute a work flow in consideration of quality upon processing a job in a case that the fourth schedule is set ~~in the image forming system~~.

7.　(Currently Amended)　The method according to Claim 1, further comprising: ~~a memory control step of~~ storing information about the set schedule ~~information set in the scheduling control step~~ in a memory.

8.　(Currently Amended)　A method for an image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device ~~The method according to claim 1~~, the method ~~further~~ comprising:

setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by

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using the plurality of devices;

~~an informing control step of~~

controlling a user interface unit to inform ~~execute an informing process of~~ an operator of schedule information about the first schedule ~~associated with a scheduling result set in the scheduling control step;~~; and

~~wherein the informing control step includes a step of~~ controlling the user interface unit to inform the operator of ~~different kinds of~~ schedule information about the second schedule ~~depending on whether~~ so that the operator can distinguish from the schedule information about the first schedule ~~or second instruction is input~~.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device ~~The method according to claim 8~~, the method comprising ~~wherein the informing control step includes steps of~~:

setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first

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and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices;

controlling, ~~when the first instruction is input, the~~ a user interface unit to provide ~~execute an informing process of~~ first schedule information in a case that the first schedule is set, wherein the first schedule information ~~that~~ allows an operator ~~a user~~ to identify ~~that it is scheduled to complete~~ completion of the second work flow for the second job ~~input after the first job,~~ after completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

controlling, ~~when the second instruction is input,~~ the user interface unit to provide ~~execute an informing process of~~ second schedule information in a case that the second schedule is set, wherein the second schedule information ~~that~~ allows the operator ~~a user~~ to identify ~~that it is scheduled to complete~~ completion of the second work flow for the second job ~~input after the first job,~~ before completion of the first work flow for the first job.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 9 ~~8~~, further comprising: ~~wherein the informing control step includes a step of~~ controlling, ~~when the third instruction is input,~~ the user interface unit to provide ~~execute an informing process of~~ third schedule information in a case that third schedule is set, wherein the third schedule information ~~that~~ allows the operator ~~a user~~ to identify performing ~~that it is scheduled to execute~~ a work flow in consideration of cost upon processing a job by using at least one of the plurality of devices ~~in the image forming system.~~

11.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 9 ~~8~~, <u>further</u>

<u>comprising:</u> ~~wherein the informing control step includes a step of~~ controlling, ~~when the fourth~~

~~instruction is input,~~ the user interface unit to <u>provide</u> ~~execute an informing process of~~ fourth

schedule information <u>in a case that fourth schedule is set, wherein the fourth schedule</u>

<u>information</u> ~~that~~ allows <u>the operator</u> ~~a user~~ to identify <u>performing</u> ~~that it is scheduled to execute~~ a

work flow in consideration of quality upon processing a job <u>by using at least one of the plurality</u>

<u>of devices</u> ~~in the image forming system~~.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim ~~1~~ <u>9</u>, wherein ~~the~~

~~image forming system has at least one of a device which can execute a job order process, a~~

~~device which can execute a job edit process, a device which can execute a job proof process, and~~

~~a device which can execute a job archiving process, and also the image forming device and the~~

~~sheet processing device, and~~

~~the scheduling control step includes a step of setting a schedule suited to~~

~~execute~~ <u>the print processing and the sheet processing are included in at least one of the first and</u>

<u>second</u> ~~a~~ work flow<u>s.</u> ~~having a plurality of process steps including~~ <u>the</u> ~~a~~ print process<u>ing</u> ~~step~~

~~using the image forming device~~ and <u>the</u> ~~a~~ sheet process<u>ing</u> ~~step~~ <u>being performed sequentially by</u>

using <u>the image forming device and</u> the sheet processing device.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~

~~scheduling control step includes a step of setting a schedule suited to execute a work flow~~

~~including~~ <u>the</u> ~~a~~ plurality of process steps ~~using the plurality of devices,~~ and ~~an~~ operator

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intervention work <u>are included in at least one of the first and second work flows</u>.

14.   (Currently Amended) A <u>method for an image forming system adapted to</u> <u>control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet</u> <u>processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for a job, the sheet</u> <u>processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming</u> <u>device</u> ~~The method according to claim 13~~, the method ~~further~~ comprising<u>:</u>

<u>setting a schedule adapted to complete a work flow for the job in</u> <u>accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input</u> <u>operator instructions, the work flow including the plurality of processing by using the plurality of</u> <u>devices and including operator's intervention work;</u> ~~an informing control step of controlling a~~ ~~user interface unit to inform schedule information associated with a scheduling result set in the~~ ~~scheduling control step, and~~

~~wherein the informing control step includes a step of~~ controlling <u>a</u> ~~the~~ user interface unit to ~~inform~~ <u>provide</u> first type schedule information <u>about the set schedule, the first</u> <u>type schedule information</u> ~~that~~ allows <u>an operator</u> ~~a user~~ to confirm an execution order of the plurality of process steps ~~using the plurality of devices required to~~ <u>to complete</u> ~~execute~~ the work flow<u>;</u> ~~;~~ and

controlling the user interface to inform second type schedule information <u>about the set schedule, the second type schedule information</u> ~~that~~ allows <u>the operator</u> ~~user~~ to confirm <u>the</u> ~~an~~ operator intervention work <u>to complete</u> ~~required to execute~~ the work flow.

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15.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, <u>further</u> <u>comprising:</u> ~~wherein the informing control step includes a step of~~

controlling the user interface unit to inform the first type schedule information and then the second type schedule information.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, <u>further</u> <u>comprising:</u> ~~wherein the informing control step includes a step of~~

controlling the user interface unit to inform the second type schedule information and then the first type schedule information.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, <u>further</u> <u>comprising</u> <u>:</u>~~further comprising an informing mode selection step of~~

selecting one of a first schedule informing mode of informing the first type schedule information, and a second schedule informing mode of informing the second type schedule information<u>;</u>~~,~~ and

~~wherein the informing control step includes a step of~~ controlling the user interface unit to operate in the ~~informing mode~~ selected <u>mode</u> ~~in the informing mode selection step~~.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, <u>further</u> <u>comprising:</u> ~~wherein the informing~~

control step includes a step of controlling the user interface unit to prompt

to input authentication data when the user interface unit informs the second type schedule

information ~~of the first type schedule information and the second type schedule information~~.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, <u>further</u>

<u>comprising:</u> ~~wherein the informing control step includes a step of~~

controlling the user interface unit to identifiably inform the first type

schedule information for respective jobs when the user interface unit informs the first type

schedule information ~~of the first type schedule information and the second type schedule~~

~~information~~.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, <u>further</u>

<u>comprising:</u> ~~wherein the informing control step includes a step of~~ identifiably informing the

second type schedule information for respective <u>operators</u> ~~users~~ when the user interface unit

informs the second type schedule information ~~of the first type schedule information and the~~

~~second type schedule information~~.

21.   (Currently Amended) <u>A method for an image forming system adapted to</u>

<u>control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet</u>

<u>processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in</u>

<u>a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the</u>

<u>image forming device having interrupt print function adapted to interrupt printing processing for</u>

<u>a job and then perform print processing for another job, and the sheet processing device being</u>

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capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device ~~The method~~

~~according to claim 1~~, the method comprising:

setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined

instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule

being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work

flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for

the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first

and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by

using the plurality of devices; ~~wherein the image forming device comprises an interrupt print~~

~~function which interrupts a print job, a print process of which is in progress, and can execute a~~

~~print process of another print job,~~ and ~~said method further comprises a device control step of~~

inhibiting execution of the interrupt print function, when ~~the first schedule~~

~~is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is not ready~~ the image

forming device can not perform an operation to complete the second work flow for the second

job ~~input after the first job,~~ after completion of the first work flow for the first job due to

execution of the interrupt print function, in a case that the first schedule is set.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 21 ~~1~~, further

comprising: ~~wherein the image forming device comprises an interrupt print function which~~

~~interrupts a print job, a print process of which is in progress, and can execute a print process of~~

~~another print job, and~~

~~said method further comprises a device control. step of~~ permitting

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execution of the interrupt print function, ~~when the first schedule is set in the scheduling control step and~~ when <u>the image forming device can perform operation</u> ~~the image forming system is ready~~ to complete the second work flow for the second job ~~input after the first job,~~ after completion of the first work flow for the first job<u> regardless of execution of the interrupt print function, in a case that the first schedule is set</u>.

23.   (Currently Amended) <u>A method for an image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the image forming device having an overtake print function adapted to start print processing for a job prior to starting print processing for another job which was received before the job, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device</u> ~~The method according to claim 1~~, <u>the method comprising</u>:

<u>setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices;</u> ~~wherein the image forming device comprises an overtake print function which can execute a print process of the second print job prior to the first print job upon~~

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completion of another print job, a print process of which is in progress, and

said method further comprises a device control step of inhibiting execution of the overtake print function, when the first schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is not ready the image forming device can not perform an operation to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job due to execution of the overtake print function, in a case that the first schedule is set.

24.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 23 1, further comprising: wherein the image forming device comprises an overtake print which can execute a print process of the second print job prior to the first print job upon completion of another print job, a print process of which is in progress, and

said method further comprises a device control step of permitting execution of the overtake print function, when the image forming device can perform operation the first schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is ready to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job regardless of execution of the overtake print function, in a case that the first schedule is set.

25.   (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in

a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the image forming device having an expanded application function, the expanded application function including any of a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function, and a preview function, the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device ~~The method according to claim 1,~~ the method comprising: ~~wherein the image forming device comprises an expanded application function including any of a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function, and a preview function, and~~

setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; and

~~said method further comprises a device control step of~~ inhibiting execution of the expanded application function, when the image forming device can not perform an operation ~~the first schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is not ready~~ to complete the second work flow for the second job ~~input after the first job,~~ after completion of the first work flow for the first job due to execution of the expanded application function, in a case that the first schedule is set.

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26.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 25 ~~1~~, <u>further</u>

<u>comprising:</u> ~~wherein the image forming device comprises an expanded application function~~

~~including any of a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function, and a preview~~

~~function, and said method further comprises a device control step of~~

permitting execution of the expanded application function, when <u>the</u>

<u>image forming device can not perform an operation</u> ~~the first schedule is set in the scheduling~~

~~control step and when the image forming system is ready~~ to complete the second work flow for

the second job ~~input after the first job,~~ after completion of the first work flow for the first job

<u>regardless of execution of the expanded application function, in a case that the first schedule is</u>

<u>set</u>.

27.   (Currently Amended) <u>A method for an image forming system adapted to</u>

<u>control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet</u>

<u>processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in</u>

<u>a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the</u>

<u>image forming device having interrupt print function adapted to interrupt printing processing for</u>

<u>a job and then perform print processing for another job, and the sheet processing device being</u>

<u>capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device</u> ~~The method~~

~~according to claim 1~~, <u>the method comprising:</u>

<u>setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined</u>

<u>instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule</u>

<u>being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work</u>

flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for

the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, at least one of the first and

second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using

the plurality of devices; ~~wherein the image forming device comprises an interrupt print function~~

~~which interrupts a print job, a print process of which is in progress, and can execute a print~~

~~process of another print job,~~ and

      ~~said method further comprises a device control step of~~ inhibiting execution

of the interrupt print function, when the image forming device can not perform an operation ~~the~~

~~second schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when a state of the image forming~~

~~system is a third state in which the image forming system is ready~~ to complete the second work

flow for the second job ~~input after the first job,~~ before completion of the first work flow for the

first job due to execution of the interrupt print function, in a case that the second schedule is set.

  28. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 27 ~~1~~, further

comprising: ~~wherein the image forming device comprises an interrupt print function which~~

~~interrupts a print job, a print process of which is in progress, and can execute a print process of~~

~~another print job, and~~

      ~~said method further comprises a device control step of~~ permitting

execution of the interrupt print function, when the image forming device can perform an

operation ~~the second schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming~~

~~system is not ready~~ to complete the second work flow for the second job ~~input after the first job,~~

before completion of the first work flow for the first job regardless of execution of the interrupt

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print function, in a case that the second schedule is set.

29.   (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the image forming device having an overtake print function adapted to start print processing for a job prior to starting print processing for another job which was received before the job, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device ~~The method according to claim 1~~, the method comprising:

setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; ~~wherein the image forming device comprises an overtake print which can execute a print process of the second print job prior to the first print job upon completion of another print job, a print process of which is in progress;~~ and

~~said method further comprises a device control step of~~ permitting execution of the overtake print function, when the image forming device can perform an operation ~~the second schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming~~

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system is ready to complete the second work flow for the second job ~~input after the first job,~~ before completion of the first work flow for the first job <u>regardless of execution of the overtake print function, in a case that the second schedule is set</u>.

30.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim <u>29</u> ~~1~~, <u>further comprising: ~~wherein the image forming device comprises an overtake print which can execute a print process of the second print job prior to the first print job upon completion of another print job, a print process of which is in progress, and~~</u>

                    ~~said method further comprises a device control step of~~ inhibiting execution of the overtake print function, <u>when the image forming device can not perform an operation</u> ~~when the second schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is not ready~~ to complete the second work flow for the second job ~~input after the first job,~~ before completion of the first work flow for the first job<u> due to execution of the overtake print function, in a case that the second schedule is set</u>.

31.   (Currently Amended) <u>A method for an image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the image forming device having an expanded application function, the expanded application function including any of a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function, and a preview function, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets</u>

printed by the image forming device ~~The method according to claim 1~~, the method comprising:

setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operators instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; ~~wherein the image forming device comprises an expanded application function including any of a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function, and a preview function,~~ and

~~said method further comprises a device control step of~~ permitting execution of the expanded application function, when the image forming device can perform an operation ~~the second schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is ready~~ to complete the second work flow for the second job ~~input after the first job,~~ before completion of the first work flow for the first job regardless of execution of the expanded application function, in a case that the second schedule is set.

32.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 31 ~~1~~, further comprising: ~~wherein the image forming device comprises an expanded application function including any of a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function, and a preview function, and~~

~~said method further comprises a device control step of~~ inhibiting execution

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of the expanded application function, when <u>the image forming device can not perform an</u>

<u>operation</u> ~~the second schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming~~

~~system is not ready~~ to complete the second work flow for the second job ~~input after the first job,~~

before completion of the first work flow for the first job <u>due to execution of the expanded</u>

<u>application function, in a case that the second schedule is set</u>.

       33.   (Currently Amended) <u>A method for an image forming system adapted to</u>

<u>control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet</u>

<u>processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for a job, the sheet</u>

<u>processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming</u>

<u>device</u> ~~The method according to claim 1,~~

      <u>the method comprising:</u>

      <u>setting a schedule adapted to complete a work flow for the job in</u>

<u>accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input</u>

<u>operator's instruction, the work flow including a plurality of processing by using the plurality of</u>

<u>devices and including plural operator's intervention work;</u> ~~wherein the scheduling control step~~

~~includes a step of setting a schedule suited to execute a work flow including a plurality of process~~

~~steps using the plurality of devices, and a plurality of intervention works by an operator,~~ <u>and</u>

      ~~said method further comprises an informing control step of~~ controlling a

user interface unit to inform <u>an operator of</u> information <u>about the set schedule, the information</u>

~~that~~ allows the operator to <u>sequentially</u> confirm ~~an~~ <u>the plural operator's</u> intervention work ~~to be~~

~~done immediately after an intervention work executed by the operator of the plurality of~~

intervention works required to ~~complete~~ execute the work flow.

34.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 33, wherein the user interface unit is ~~informing control step includes a step of controlling~~ provided for a portable terminal which can be carried by the operator ~~to inform the information~~.

35.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the scheduling control step includes a step of scheduling work flows of a plurality of~~ at least one of the first and second jobs is received from at least one of ~~which include any of a job of data output~~ from a computer, ~~a job of data output from~~ a scanner, ~~a job of data output from~~ a digital camera, and ~~a job of data output from~~ a storage medium.

36.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the scheduling control step includes a step of setting a schedule of work flows using data suitable for~~ ~~a~~ data adapted to a JDF (Job Definition Format) ~~format~~ is used for at least one of the first and second work flows.

37.   (Currently Amended) An image forming system ~~which comprises~~ adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device ~~which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device;~~ and a sheet

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processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the system comprising:

a setting unit configured to set first or second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator's instruction, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; and

a controlling unit configured to control at least one of the plurality of devices to complete the second work flow for the second job after completing the first work flow for the first job in a case that the first schedule is set, the controlling unit being configured to control at least one of the plurality of devices to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job in a case that the second schedule is set. ~~which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a~~ ~~first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet~~ ~~processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming~~ ~~device;~~

~~scheduling control means suited to set a schedule associated with a~~ ~~plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using~~

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a plurality of devices of said image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of said image forming system required to complete the second job; and

instruction means suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions;

wherein said scheduling control means can set a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, when the first instruction is input, and can set a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job, when the second instruction is input.

38. (Currently Amended) A program <u>for causing a computer to execute the method defined in claim 1, the program being stored on a computer-readable medium.</u> for making an image forming system, which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device, execute:

a scheduling control sequence suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of said image forming system required to complete the first job, and a

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second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of said image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction sequence suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions;

wherein the scheduling control sequence can set a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, when the first instruction is input, and can set a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job, when the second instruction is input.

39.   (Currently Amended) A program for causing a computer to execute the method defined in Claim 8, the program being stored in computer-readable medium storage medium storing a program of claim 38.

40.   (Currently Amended) An image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the system comprising:

a setting unit configured to set a first or a second schedule in accordance

with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator's instruction, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; and

a controlling unit configured to control a user interface unit to inform an operator of schedule information about the first schedule, the controlling unit being configured to control the user interface unit to inform the operator of schedule information about the second schedule so that the operator can distinguish from the schedule information about the first schedule.

~~job acceptance means for accepting a print job and a print instruction;~~

~~a plurality of step control means for respectively controlling a plurality of steps for the print job;~~

~~scheduling means for scheduling the steps; and~~

~~process control means for managing the steps on the basis of a scheduling result of said scheduling means.~~

41.   (Currently Amended) An image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, and the sheet

processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the system comprising:

a setting unit configured to set a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; and

a controlling unit configured to control a user interface unit to inform first schedule information in a case that the first schedule is set, the first schedule information allowing an operator to identify completing the second work flow for the second job after completing the first work flow for the first job, the controlling unit being configured to control the user interface unit to inform second schedule information in a case that the second schedule is set, and the second schedule information allowing the operator to identify completing the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job. ~~An image forming system comprising:~~

~~job acceptance means for accepting a print job and a print instruction;~~

~~pre-print process control means for controlling a pre-print process step that applies a pre-print process to the print job accepted by said job acceptance means in accordance with the print instruction;~~

~~print process control means for controlling a print process step that applies~~

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a print process to the print job that has undergone the pre- print process;

post-print process control means for controlling a post-print process step that applies a post-print process to the print job that has undergone the print process;

scheduling means for scheduling the steps; and

process control means for managing a schedule of the steps on the basis of a scheduling result of said scheduling means.

42.   (Currently Amended) An image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for a job, the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the system comprising:

a setting unit configured to set a schedule adapted to complete a work flow for the job in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator's instruction, the work flow including the plurality of processing by using the plurality of devices and including operator's intervention work; and

a controlling unit configured to control a user interface unit to inform first type schedule information about the set schedule, the first type schedule information allowing an operator to confirm an execution order of the plurality of processing to complete the work flow, the controlling unit being configured to control the user interface to inform second type schedule information about the set schedule, and the second type schedule information allowing the operator to confirm the operator intervention work to complete the work flow. An image forming

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system

~~job acceptance means for accepting a print job and a print instruction;~~

~~edit process control means for controlling an edit process step that applies~~

~~an edit process to the print job accepted by said job acceptance means in accordance with the~~

~~print instruction;~~

~~proof process control means for controlling a proof process step that~~

~~applies a proof process to the print job that has undergone the edit process;~~

~~print process control means for controlling a print process step that applies~~

~~a print process to the print job that has undergone the proof process;~~

~~finishing process control means for controlling a finishing process step~~

~~that applies a finishing process to the print job that has undergone the print process;~~

~~delivery process control means for controlling a delivery process step that~~

~~applies a delivery process to the print job that has undergone the finishing process;~~

~~scheduling means for scheduling the steps; and~~

~~process control means for managing a schedule of the steps on the basis of~~

~~a scheduling result of said scheduling means.~~

43.   (Currently Amended) An image forming system <u>adapted to control a</u>

<u>plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing</u>

<u>device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for a job, the sheet processing</u>

<u>device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the</u>

<u>system</u> comprising:

a setting unit configured to set a schedule adapted to complete a work flow for the job in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator's instruction, the work flow including a plurality of processing by using the plurality of devices and including plural operator's intervention work; and

a controlling unit configured to control a user interface unit to inform an operator of information about the set schedule the information allowing the operator to sequentially confirm the plural operator intervention work to complete the work flow. ~~An image forming system comprising:~~

~~job acceptance means for accepting a print job and a print instruction;~~

~~image scanning means for scanning image data from a paper document;~~

~~edit process control means for controlling an edit process step that applies an edit process to the print job accepted by said job acceptance means or a print job based on the image data scanned by said image scanning means in accordance with the print instruction;~~

~~proof process control means for controlling a proof process step that applies a proof process to the print job that has undergone the edit process;~~

~~print process control means for controlling a print process step that applies a print process to the print job that has undergone the proof process;~~

~~finishing process control means for controlling a finishing process step that applies a finishing process to the print job that has undergone the print process;~~

~~delivery process control means for controlling a delivery process step that applies a delivery process to the print job that has undergone the finishing process;~~

~~scheduling means for scheduling the steps; and~~

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process control means for managing a schedule of the steps on the basis of a scheduling result of said scheduling means.

44. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 37 40, <u>wherein the controlling unit is configured to control the number of devices utilized in the first or second work flow in a case that the first or second schedule is set.</u> further comprising display means for displaying the schedule of the steps managed by said process control means, and times required for the steps.

45. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 37 40, <u>wherein the controlling unit is configured to control timing of performing processing in the first or second work flow in a case that the first or second schedule is set.</u> further comprising selection means for selecting one or a plurality of modes from a plurality of scheduling modes, and

said scheduling means schedules the steps on the basis of the one or plurality of scheduling modes selected by said selection means.

46. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 37 40, wherein <u>the controlling unit is configured to control a predetermined function provided for device utilized in the first or second work flow in a case that the first or second schedule is set.</u> said scheduling means schedules the steps on the basis of an acceptance order of print jobs by said job acceptance means.

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47.   (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim <u>46</u> ~~40~~, wherein <u>the</u> <u>predetermined function is at least one of an interrupt print function adapted to interrupt printing</u> <u>processing for the first job and then perform print processing for the second job, an overtake print</u> <u>function adapted to start print processing for the second job prior to starting print processing for</u> <u>the first job, a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function and a preview</u> <u>function.</u> ~~said scheduling means schedules the steps while giving priority to a delivery date of the~~ ~~print job.~~

48.   (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim <u>37</u> ~~40~~, wherein <u>the print</u> <u>processing and the sheet processing are included in at least one of the first and second work flows,</u> <u>the print processing and the sheet processing being performed sequentially by using the image</u> <u>forming device and the sheet processing device</u> ~~said scheduling means schedules the steps while~~ ~~giving priority to cost of the print job.~~

49.   (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim <u>37</u> ~~40~~, wherein <u>the</u> <u>plurality of processing and operator intervention work are included in at least one of the first and</u> <u>second work flows</u> ~~said scheduling means schedules the steps while giving priority to quality of the~~ ~~print job.~~

50.   (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim <u>37</u> ~~40~~, wherein <u>data</u> <u>adapted to a JDF (Job Definition Format) is used for at least one of the first and second work flows</u> ~~said scheduling means schedules the steps while giving priority to optimization or operating~~

efficiency of said image forming system.

51.   (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 37 45, wherein the setting unit is configured to change from the first schedule to the second schedule in accordance with inputting operator's instruction for setting second schedule as the predetermined instruction after setting the first schedule the plurality of scheduling modes include a print job acceptance order priority mode, print job priority mode, print job cost priority mode, print job time schedule priority mode, image forming system optimization priority mode, and image forming system operating efficiency priority mode.

52.   (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 41 45, wherein the controlling unit is configured to control the user interface unit to inform the operator of the second schedule information in accordance with changing from the first schedule to the second schedule said selection means can re-select even after scheduling by said scheduling means.

53.   (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 42 40, wherein the controlling unit is configured to distinguish the operator from other operators based on identifying the operator, and to control the user interface unit to inform the operator of the first or second type schedule information said scheduling means checks a schedule or schedules of one or a plurality of already scheduled jobs upon scheduling a print job accepted by said job acceptance means, and re-schedules the steps of the accepted job and the one or plurality of already scheduled jobs when the schedule or schedules of the one or plurality of already scheduled jobs can be changed.

54.   (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim <u>42</u> ~~40~~, wherein ~~said job acceptance means accepts the print job and print instruction via a service using~~ a Web browser <u>is adapted as at least one of the input unit and the user interface unit</u> ~~via the Internet~~.

55.   (Currently Amended) <u>The system according to Claim 42, wherein a user interface provided in an apparatus capable of performing wireless communication or handling data of a JDF (Job Definition Format) is adapted to as the user interface</u> unit. ~~A method of controlling an image forming system, comprising:~~

~~a job acceptance step of accepting a print job and a print instruction;~~

~~a plurality of step control steps of respectively controlling a plurality of steps for the print job;~~

~~a scheduling step of scheduling the steps; and~~

~~a process control step of managing the steps on the basis of a scheduling result in the scheduling step.~~

56.   (Currently Amended) A program for <u>causing a computer to execute the method defined in Claim 9, the program being stored on a computer-readable medium</u> ~~implementing a method of controlling an image forming system of claim 55~~.

57.   (Currently Amended) <u>A program for causing a computer to execute the method defined in Claim 14, the program being stored on a computer-readable medium</u> ~~A storage medium computer-readably storing a program for implementing a method of controlling an image~~

forming system of claim 55.

58.   (Currently Amended) A program for causing a computer to execute the
method defined in Claim 33, the program being stored on a computer-readable medium ~~An image~~
~~forming system which can execute an image forming process including a plurality of steps,~~
~~comprising:~~

~~process control means for managing the plurality of steps and issuing work~~
~~instructions to workers who execute works~~.

59.   (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 43 ~~58~~, wherein the
controlling unit is configured to distinguish the operator from other operators based on identifying
the operator, and to control the user interface unit to inform the operator of the information ~~further~~
~~comprising display means for displaying the work instructions from said process control means~~.

60.   (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 43 ~~58~~, wherein a Web
browser is adapted as at least one of the input unit and the user interface unit ~~further comprising~~
~~worker identification means for identifying the workers who execute works, and~~

~~wherein said process control means issues the work instructions to the workers~~
~~identified by said worker identification means~~.

61.   (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 43 ~~58~~, wherein a user
interface provided in an apparatus capable of performing wireless communication or handling data

of a JDF (Job Definition Format) is adapted as the user interface unit .~~further comprising scheduling~~

~~means for scheduling the works of the workers who execute works for respective steps, and~~

~~wherein said process control means issues the work instructions to the workers~~

~~who execute works on the basis of a scheduling result of said scheduling means.~~

62.   (Currently Amended)   The system according to Claim 43, wherein the

controlling unit is configured to control the user interface unit to display a screen which is configured

to sequentially-arrange information about the plural operator intervention work. ~~The system~~

~~according to claim 60, further comprising scheduling means for scheduling the works of the workers~~

~~identified by said worker identification means for respective steps.~~

63.   (Currently Amended)   The system according to Claim 43, wherein the

controlling unit is configured to control the user interface unit to inform the operator of information

about next operator's intervention work included in the plural operator intervention work after

performing any of the plural operator's intervention work. ~~The system according to claim 58, further~~

~~comprising job acceptance means for accepting a print job and a print instruction, and~~

~~wherein the plurality of steps include a pre-print process step that applies a~~

~~pre-print process to the print job accepted by said job acceptance means in accordance with the print~~

~~instruction, a print process step that applies a print process to the print job that has undergone the~~

~~pre-print process, and a post-print process step that applies a post-print process to the print job that~~

~~has undergone the print process.~~

64.   (Currently Amended)   The system according to Claim 63, wherein the controlling unit is configured to control a user interface which is provided for the operator who performs the next operator's intervention work to inform the operator of the information. The system according to claim 58, further comprising job acceptance means for accepting a print job and a print instruction, and

wherein the plurality of steps include an edit process step that applies an edit process to the print job accepted by said job acceptance means in accordance with the print instruction, a proof process step that applies a proof process to the print job that has undergone the edit process, a print process step that applies a print process to the print job that has undergone the proof process, a finishing process step that applies a finishing process to the print job that has undergone the print process, and a delivery process step that applies a delivery process to the print job that has undergone the finishing process.

65.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 33, further comprising:

controlling the user interface unit to display a screen which is configured to sequentially-arrange information about the plural operator intervention work. The system according to claim 58, further comprising:

job acceptance means for accepting a print job and a print instruction; and

image scanning means for scanning image data from a paper document, and

wherein the plurality of steps include an edit process step that applies an edit process to the print job accepted by said job acceptance means or a print job based on the image data scanned by said image scanning means in accordance with the print instruction, a proof process step

that applies a proof process to the print job that has undergone the edit process, a print process step that applies a print process to the print job that has undergone the proof process, a finishing process step that applies a finishing process to the print job that has undergone the print process, and a delivery process step that applies a delivery process to the print job that has undergone the finishing process.

66.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 33, further comprising: controlling the user interface unit to inform the operator of information about next operator's intervention work included in the plural operator's intervention work after performing any of the plural operator intervention work. The system according to claim 60, wherein said worker identification means comprises an ID card which stores information including a worker's name, identification number, department name, skill, and work history.

67.   (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 33, further comprising: controlling a user interface which is provided for the operator who performs the next operator intervention work to inform the operator of the information. The system according to claim 59, wherein said display means comprises a display unit of a device used by each worker in each step.

68.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 67, wherein the display unit of a device used by each worker in each step includes a display unit of a computer, a display unit of a printing device, and a display unit attached to a cart or the like. An apparatus for image forming

system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the apparatus comprising:

a setting unit configured to set first or second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator's instruction, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; and

a controlling unit configured to control at least one of the plurality of devices to complete the second work flow for the second job after completing the first work flow for the first job in a case that the first schedule is set, the controlling unit being configured to control at least one of the plurality of devices to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job in a case that the second schedule is set. ~~The system according to claim 67, wherein the display unit of a device used by each worker in each step includes a display unit of a computer, a display unit of a printing device, and a display unit attached to a cart or the like.~~

69.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The system according to claim 59, wherein said display unit comprises a display unit of a portable terminal which can be carried by each worker.~~ An

apparatus for an image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the apparatus comprising:

a setting unit configured to set first or second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator's instruction, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; and

a controlling unit configured to control a user interface unit to inform first schedule information in a case that the first schedule is set, the first schedule information allowing an operator to identify completing the second work flow for the second job after completing the first work flow for the first job, the controlling unit being configured to control the user interface unit to inform second schedule information in a case that the second schedule is set, the second schedule information allowing the operator to identify completing the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job. ~~The system according to claim 59, wherein said display unit comprises a display unit of a portable terminal which can be carried by each worker.~~

70.   (Currently Amended) ~~The system according to claim 59, wherein the portable~~

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terminal can wirelessly receive the work instruction from said process control means. An apparatus for an image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for a job, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the apparatus comprising:

a setting unit configured to set a schedule adapted to complete a work flow for the job in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator's instruction, the work flow including the plurality of processing by using the plurality of devices and including operator's intervention work; and

a controlling unit configured to control a user interface unit to inform first type schedule information about the set schedule, the first type schedule information allowing an operator to confirm an execution order of the plurality of processing to complete the work flow, the controlling unit being configured to control the user interface to inform second type schedule information about the set schedule, the second type schedule information allowing the operator to confirm the operator's intervention work to complete the work flow. The system according to claim 59, wherein the portable terminal can wirelessly receive the work instruction from said process control means.

71.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 69, further comprising worker identification means for identifying the workers who execute works, and An apparatus for an image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print

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processing for a job, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the apparatus comprising:

a setting unit configured to set a schedule adapted to complete a work flow for the job in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the work flow including a plurality of processing by using the plurality of devices and including plural operator's intervention work; and

a controlling unit configured to control a user interface unit to inform an operator of information about the set schedule of the information allowing the operator to sequentially confirm the plural operator's intervention work to complete the work flow. ~~The system according to claim 69, further comprising worker identification means for identifying the workers who execute works, and~~

~~wherein the portable terminal acquires identification information from said worker identification means and wirelessly informs said process control means of the acquired identification information.~~

72.-75. (Cancelled)